



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY COUNCIL

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NERC Urges House to Pass Reliability Legislation

The North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC), on behalf of twelve electric industry and state organizations, yesterday wrote to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, to urge his support for prompt passage of legislation in this session of Congress to promote and ensure continued reliability of the high-voltage electric transmission systems in North America. Michehl R. Gent, President of NERC, said in his letter, "This international transmission grid — the backbone of our electricity infrastructure — is critical to public health, safety, welfare, and national security, and enables robust competition in electricity markets."

NERC and the supporting organizations urged the Speaker to "call up S. 2071, incorporate the RTO coordination amendments (discussed in the letter), and approve S. 2071 as amended." NERC emphasized that the supporting organizations would oppose the bill if any other provisions are added. "Having Congress enact this legislation now," Gent says, "with the RTO coordination amendments, is an important step to ensure the continued reliability of the nation's high-voltage electricity system, and one that should not wait."

The organizations that join NERC in urging passage of S. 2071, *The Electric Reliability 2000 Act*, and associated RTO coordination amendments, are:

American Public Power Association (APPA); California Independent System Operator (CAISO); Canadian Electricity Association (CEA); Edison Electric Institute (EEI); Large Public Power Council (LPPC); National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC); National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA); National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA); National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA); PJM Interconnection LLC (PJM); Transmission Access Policy Study Group (TAPS); and Western Interconnection Coordination Forum (WICF).

The letter to Speaker Hastert is available from the NERC web site (<http://www.nerc.com/download/hotdocs.html>).

NERC is a not-for-profit company formed as a result of the Northeast blackout in 1965 to promote the reliability of the bulk electric systems that serve North America. It works with all segments of the electric industry as well as customers to "keep the lights on" by developing and encouraging compliance with rules for the reliable operation of these systems. NERC comprises ten Regional Reliability Councils that account for virtually all the electricity supplied in the United States, Canada, and a portion of Baja California Norte, Mexico.

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